

App. No. 10/772,766
Supp. Amendment

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

With reference to Figures 1 and 3, the sock 10 preferably includes five toe sections 22. In alternative embodiments, the sock 10 may have alternative numbers of toe sections, e.g., 2, 3, 4. The toe sections 22 are separated by trough regions 54. Toe socks in the past had uncomfortable trough regions. Because toe socks have not been that common, most wearers are more familiar with their toes being in skin-to-skin contact, in a tight or snug relationship with each other. In the past, adjacent trough sections formed a V or angle that intersected at an apex. At the apex, the adjacent trough sections were stitched together to join the toe sections. This stitched apex created an uncomfortable lumpy feeling between the wearer's toes. In contrast, the trough regions 54, which each have an apex located where adjacent toe sections 22 are joined, include nested, overlapping material portions 58 where the toe sections 22 intersect. The nested, overlapping material portions 58 eliminate the uncomfortable lumpy feeling between the toes common to toe socks of the past. Keeping the toes separate prevents the toes from rubbing. This improves circulation in the foot, relieves stress, and protects the toe from moisture and blistering. The hydrophobic and permeable material used in the sock 10 further protects the toes from moisture and blistering by wicking away perspiration from the toes to the surface of the sock and promoting breathability in this area of the sock 10. Another benefit of the toe construction is that it

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is seamless across the top and bottom. Athletic socks in the past generally include a seam running across the top or bottom of the sock, along the toe of the sock. This seam protrudes, is uncomfortable, inhibits circulation in the wearer's foot, and causes blisters. The toe sections 22 of the sock 10 are stitched and closed with the nested, overlapping material portions 58 so that the slight seams that do exist at the toe sections 22 are unnoticeable to the toes when in the toe sections 22 and do not cause irritating pressure points on the toes where a seam would normally be, increasing comfort and reducing friction and blistering.